CHAPTER VI

PHILIPPINE NATIONALISM[1]

DEVELOPMENT[2]

At the time of the conquest of the Philippines by the Spaniards, the people had no common government, religion, or language. Racial consciousness had not asserted itself. National solidarity was lacking. Even for centuries after the Spaniards arrived bringing with them their religion, language, and culture, any betterment that occurred in the Philippines was individualistic and not nationalistic in nature. The individual might improve his own condition, but was not acquainted with the people residing beyond the confines of his hamlet and might even be on unfriendly terms with them. It was not until the opening of the nineteenth century that changes took place in the relations of the Filipinos with each other and in their outlook on life.

As the system imposed by Spain changed gradually the life of the people, so did it likewise cause grievances. The enlarged commercial contact with the outer world, the construction of the Suez Canal, and the increasing number of Filipino youths who secured educations in Europe apprized the few of their nationality, and they in turn enlightened their less fortunate countrymen. The liberal tendencies of the nineteenth century were reflected in the Philippines. In the late eighties and early nineties of that century a number

of young men, among whom Dr. Jose Rizal and Marcelo H.

[1] This chapter was read by Professor Maximo M. Kalaw, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Chief of the Department of Political Science in the University of the Philippines.

[2] See Maximo M. Kalaw, *Philippine Social Science* (1933), Part in.